

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BANGKO 12576 271451Z

10

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SR-02 ORM-01 AID-05 IO-10 CIAE-00 PM-03

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-15 /084 W

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R 271148Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6621

AMCONSUL UDORN

INFO AMCONSUL CHIANG MAI

CINCPAC HONOLULU

COMUSMACTHAI

DIA WASHDC

UNCLAS BANGKOK 12576

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, TH, CB

SUBJ: THAI-CAMBODIAN RELATIONS: REFUGEES AND BORDER CROSSINGS

REF: BANGKOK 12564

FOLLOWING IS AN EXCERPT FROM DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER
PRAMAN ADIREKSAN'S JUNE 26 NEWS CONFERENCE:

BEGIN EXCERPT.

REPORTER: CAMBODIANS ARE CROSSING THE BORDER AND
ENCROACHING UPON THAI TERRITORY CONSTANTLY NOW, RESULTING
IN CLASHES WITH OUR POLICE.

PRAMAN: IT IS SIMILAR TO PEOPLE CROSSING BACKWARDS AND
FORWARDS ACROSS THE BORDER. THOSE CAMBODIANS ARE IN
SEARCH OF FOOD AND THEY CROSS OVER INTO THAI TERRITORY,
COMPELLING US TO HAVE TO CHASE THEM OUT. WHEN PEOPLE ARE
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PAGE 02 BANGKO 12576 271451Z

ON THE VERGE OF STARVATION, WE MUST BE ON OUR GUARD.

REPORTER: HOW CAN WE PROVIDE INCREASED SECURITY FOR
OUR PEOPLE?

PRAMAN: WE ENDEAVOR TO ERADICATE ANY DANGER, WHEREVER
IT MAY BE.

REPORTER: WHAT ACTION WILL WE TAKE IN REGARD TO THE
PROBLEM OF REFUGEES?

PRAMAN: FRANKLY SPEAKING, THIS PROBLEM OF REFUGEES
IS A PROBLEM WHICH THE GOVERNMENT MUST CONSIDER VERY CARE-
FULLY AND THOROUGHLY. AT THE START WE HOPED AND BELIEVED
THAT PEACE AND ORDER WOULD BE RESTORED TO CAMBODIA, BUT
WHEN WE SENT REFUGEES BACK TO THEIR COUNTRY THEY WERE KILLED.
THAT HAS PUT US IN A VERY DIFFICULT POSITION, BECAUSE SHOULD
WE COMPEL THEM TO LEAVE THAILAND IT WOULD MEAN THAT WE
WOULD BE SENDING THEM TO DIE. SINCE WE ADHERE TO THE
QUALITIES OF KINDNESS AND HUMANITY TAUGHT US BY OUR RELI-
GION, WE HAVE NO ALTERNATIVE BUT TO EASE RULES AND REGU-
LATIONS TO SOME EXTENT.

END EXCERPT.
WHITEHOUSE

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